Subcritical experiments successful

by La Tomya Glass

On August 29 and September 26, scientists from the Los Alamos National Laboratory conducted the eighteenth and nineteenth subcritical experiments, *Mario* and *Rocco*, at the Nevada Test Site's U1a complex.

According to **Laura Tomlinson**, director of the Stockpile Stewardship Division at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) and test controller-in- training, the success of the subcritical experiment program is due to the contributions of the people involved in the program.

"The subcritical experiment program is the best example of teaming since the underground testing program," said Tomlinson.

Subcritical experiments examine the behavior of plutonium as it is strongly shocked by forces produced by chemical high explosives. Subcritical experiments produce essential scientific data and technical information used to help maintain the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile. The experiments are subcritical; that is, no critical mass is formed and no self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction can occur, thus there is no nuclear explosion.

Scientific data produced from these experiments supports the National Nuclear Security Administration's Stockpile Stewardship Program. Data from such experiments helps scientists create computer models to chart the reliability of the nation's aging nuclear weapons stockpile without the need to conduct nuclear weapons tests.

Nuclear Weapons Council tours Remote Sensing Laboratory and Nevada Test Site

by Nancy Tufano

Members of the Nuclear Weapons Council toured the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL)/Nellis and the Nevada Test Site (NTS) on September 10 and 11. The contingent, including under secretary of defense acquisition, **Edward Aldridge**; assistant to the secretary of defense, **Dale Klein**; and principal assistant deputy administrator for military application, defense programs, U.S. Department of Energy, **Ronald**

continued on page 2

photo by Von Moll

Members of the Nuclear Weapons Council and staff members visit Sedan Crater as part of their tour of the Nevada Test Site.

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A PUBLICATION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE NNSA/NV FAMILY

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Haeckel; and staff members primarily visited defense-related facilities during the tour.

After spending the night at Nellis Air Force Base, the council arrived at RSL where they were briefed on underground test readiness and the Hard Target Defeat Program. The council also viewed technology exhibits in the RSL hangar that included aviation imagery and radiation sciences and search and consequence management.

Following an overnight stay at Mercury, the council began their tour of the NTS with the Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experiment Research (JASPER) facility. Council members viewed the two-stage light-gas gun and learned how it allows the behavioral study of actinides and other hazardous materials under high pressures, temperatures, and strain rates, simulating conditions of nuclear weapons. The tour also visited the Device Assembly Facility and the U1a facility where they received an underground briefing pertaining to subcritical experiments.

"You can never see or get the feel of the work from the Pentagon, I enjoyed meeting the people responsible for the work," remarked **Edward Aldridge**. "I was very impressed with the people in both the quality of work and their enthusiasm. They stand ready to do more.

After touring these facilities, **Dr. Klein**, commented "this visit gives the council a much better feel for what is done at the Nevada Test Site, it enables us to do our jobs better. As Mr. Aldridge said, you can't get the feel of this facility from viewgraphs, you have to see it.

Other highlights of the council's tour included Icecap Ground Zero and Sedan Crater, where tour members gathered for a group photo on the observation deck.

The Nuclear Weapons Council

The Nuclear Weapons Council is composed of the under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics; the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and the under secretary for nuclear security of the Department of Energy. The council's main responsibilities include:

- Developing nuclear weapons stockpiles options and costs.
- Considering safety, security, and control issues for existing weapons and for proposed new weapon programs.
- Providing guidance for nuclear weapons research, and coordinating and approving activities conducted by the Department of Energy for the study, development, production, and retirement of nuclear warheads, including concept definition studies, feasibility studies, engineering development, hardware component fabrication, warhead production, and warhead retirement.
- Reporting to Congress any difficulties at nuclear weapons laboratories or nuclear weapons production plants that have significant bearing on confidence in the safety or reliability of nuclear weapons or nuclear weapon types.
- Coordinating between the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy.

In the next issue of *SiteLines*...

- NNSA/NV's reorganization
- Cultural artifacts returned to NNSA/NV
- WATUSI shakes NTS

Face-to-Face

Name: Renee Rowe

Employer: Bechtel Nevada

Title: North Las Vegas Facility Manager

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

Hobbies/ Interests: Safety and well being of family, friends, and coworkers; animals; gardening, reading, and working on automobiles

Safety Focus

This article is one in a series that highlights the various components of Bechtel Nevada's Construction Safety Program. Over the next several months, a new monthly article will feature a different component of Bechtel Nevada's unique Construction Safety Program.

Organizational procedures help minimize safety incidents

by Jennifer Morton

Bechtel Nevada's construction department has implemented organization procedures into their daily routine as a way to minimize safety incidents at the Nevada Test Site.

Organization procedures (OP), more commonly known as operating procedures, are written task procedures. They are a safety parameter for work performed and are generated based on the type of task performed within the department. Such procedures can range from simple tasks such as drawing control to more complex tasks such as laser safety.

The organizational manager or outside entity (within Bechtel Nevada) evaluates the tasks within their organization to determine if a procedure is necessary for a particular operation. If there is a need to create a procedure, the organizational manager selects a knowledgeable employee in the subject area to write the new procedure. Nonbargaining employees are also involved in the creation of organizational procedures and provide valuable input and feedback.

Once a procedure is written and approved, it is downloaded to Bechtel Nevada's Intranet home page, under the "Operations Procedure" section. Employees have the option of reading the procedure online or printing it out for reference.

Per requirements, operating procedures are updated once a year. If minor changes are made to procedures, updates are made as needed.

While OPs are commonly used in the construction department, they are not limited to the construction department. Departments such as emergency services, engineering, facility operations, experimentation support, facilities department, and fleet will write operating procedures.

"I think OPs are essential to the overall safety and well being of the employees as well as for the protection of the surrounding environment," said **Jamie Hawkins**, Bechtel Nevada's document control coordinator for construction OPs.

To access construction's organization procedures via Bechtel Nevada's home page, go to http:\\bnhome/Docs/OPerDocs/nvops/const/default.htm.

EM recognizes student contributions

by Angela Ramsey

Bananas, high school students, and cake? Although it sounds like the ingredients for a devious practical joke, these were just some of the items associated with a recent dinner reception held to recognize the first-year accomplishments of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office Environmental Management (EM) Student Forum program.

The EM Student Forum – made up of 10 high school juniors and seniors from the Advanced Technologies Academy – was established to help the EM program develop user-friendly, easy to understand communication products for the public.

At the reception, Student Forum members joined EM representatives for dinner and cake and shared the results of their first team project – an EM children's display. They unveiled the general layout of the display, an activity book to use in conjunction with the display, and a team T-shirt based on the display design.

Students also presented their concept of an educational cartoon banana known as Banana Jones. Jones, like all bananas, contains the radioactive element potassium. The students propose using Banana Jones (modeled after the movie character Indiana Jones) on display items to teach young people about the basics of radiation. Students also described the work that went into creating a Student Forum web site. The site provides for a quick and convenient communication exchange between students and the public involvement coordinator for the project, **Heather Emmons**, IT Corporation.

During the reception the students, along with the EM staff and school administrators, reflected on the Forum's achievements and remembered some of the special events that occurred throughout the year, such as their participation in the Earth Day event *EcoJam*, and their tour of the Nevada Test Site. The students and staff were also given a chance to talk about their involvement in the program and what they enjoyed most about the year.

The evening came to a close with EM representatives praising students for all their hard work and presenting the school with a five-year, $10,000 grant. The EM Student Forum plans to use this year's grant money to purchase video software, which the students can use on upcoming projects.

This Six Sigma feature focuses on the Process Improvement Projects (PIPs) at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations' complex. Over the next six months, a different article will detail each PIP, the team associated with the PIP, and the anticipated benefits and cost savings involved with implementing the recommendations of the PIP team.

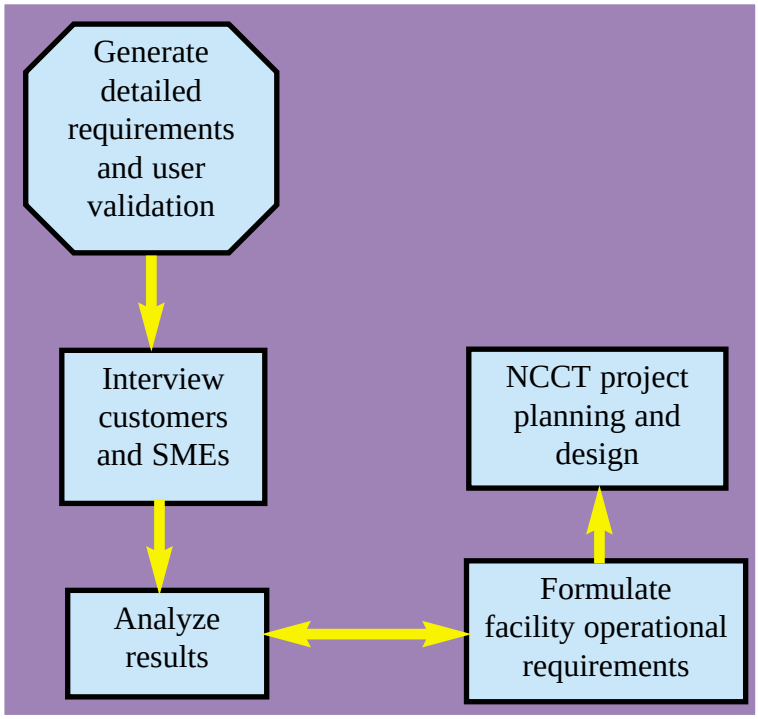
DFSS creates customer satisfaction

by Jennifer Morton

Bechtel Nevada uses a method called "Design for Six Sigma" (DFSS) as an improved planning process for project designs at the Nevada Test Site. The National Center for Combating Terrorism (NCCT) Requirements Development project is an example of a DFSS project, intended to create customer satisfaction.

DFSS, supported and operated by specially trained Bechtel Nevada Six Sigma personnel, is different from a typical Six Sigma Process Improvement Process (PIP). While PIPs find efficiencies in an existing process, DFSS projects find efficiencies in projects that have not yet begun. DFSS projects generally avoid 25 percent of budgeted amounts and PIP savings vary from project to project. Both, however, stress the importance of efficiency and PIPs may follow the completion of a DFSS.

In the NCCT Requirements Development DFSS project, team members focus on customers' requirements before money is spent on improvements for existing facilities at NCCT. The team creates facilities where each feature has a value according to the customers' wishes. Flexibility is key to support the training, testing, and exercise uses of the NCCT facilities.



This flowchart is a template that characterizes and quantifies customer requirements. It was used for the National Center for Combating Terrorism Requirements Development project, a Six Sigma Process Improvement Process project.

"By listening to 'the voice of the customer' the first time, money is saved," said **Dave Nichols**, Bechtel Nevada's manager of the NCCT Requirements Development DFSS project. "If the project is done according to customers' prioritized requirements, chances are it is flexible enough to support most customers and will not have to be redone," he added.

The DFSS team has designed a template that characterizes and quantifies customer requirements. The team will then measure those against existing capabilities. An operational method, used to direct work and funding for the development and operation of the NCCT, is developed to resolve the gap between the two.

"This project is going very well. We have met many of the required fields that drive DFSS toward a conclusion, and will have the rest of the data we need after the September focus groups," said **Lew Gordon**, the black belt for the project.

The DFSS is scheduled for completion by November 2002. It is too early to determine the cost avoidance for this particular project, but once efficiencies are identified, the benefits will follow.

News Briefs

NNSA/NV begins price negotiations for ER contractor

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) has selected the Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture Team proposal as the most highly qualified firm for the Environmental Engineering Services (Architect-Engineer) contract, Solicitation DE-RP08-02NV14201.

NNSA/NV will now request a cost proposal from the Stoller-Navarro Team. Upon successful completion of those negotiations a contract will be awarded to that Team. The contract will not exceed five years.

The Environmental Engineering Services contract includes performing environmental restoration activities associated with historical nuclear weapons testing activities at the Nevada Test Site, Central Nevada sites, New Mexico, Colorado, Mississippi and Alaska. The contract also provides for analytical laboratory services and public involvement activities associated with NNSA/NV Environmental Management activities.

Southern Nevada Science Center becomes a reality

by Roxanne Dey

photo by Ross Nelson

A crane lifts the former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) silo used at the Nevada Test Site EPA Experimental Farm and places it inside the Southern Nevada Science Center. The Nevada Test Site historical artifact will become a mini theater in the Southern Nevada Science Center's Nevada Test Site Gallery. The silo was used at the EPA Experimental Farm in Area 10 of the Nevada Test Site from 1964 to 1981.

photo by Ross Nelson

A view of the new Southern Nevada Science Center, Phase II building, located near East Flamingo Road and Swenson Street in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Southern Nevada Science Center will house the Public Reading Facility, Coordination and Information Center, the Desert Research Institute archaeological group, and the Nevada Atomic Testing History Institute exhibit area. The Center is scheduled to open to the public by fall 2003.

News Briefs

Lest we forget

by La Tomya Glass

In remembrance of those who tragically lost their lives last September 11, commemoration ceremonies were held at the Nevada Test Site Mercury fire station and an American flag was raised at the U1a complex.

Kathy Carlson, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office manager who spent last year on assignment in Washington said, "What can we do to make a difference? Continue to fight for what is right in the world, find and stop the terrorists, and strengthen our deterrents." Adding, "Our job is to maintain and strengthen the nuclear deterrent. By having a strong nuclear deterrent, we help keep America free."

Carlson and **Fred Tarantino**, Bechtel Nevada's president and general manager, were joined by **Edward C. Aldridge**, under secretary of Defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, at the Mercury Fire Station ceremony. The ceremony was broadcast to other locations so all employees had the opportunity to see and hear the commemoration ceremony.

"We learned – and we remember today – that we can change the world every day by treating others with respect and by honoring our differences, because our strength as individuals forms our strength as a community that is the guarantor of national security for the United States" said Tarantino.

photo by Steve Carragher

"It is fitting that we remember those lost. But upon reflection of their sacrifice, let us always remember that their departure for this life set we who remained on a journey." - Edward C. Aldrigde, under secretary of Defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

photo by Von Moll

Face-to-Face

Name:	Laura Tomlinson
Employer:	National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office
Title:	Director of Stockpile Stewardship Division
Hometown:	Sterling, Virginia
Hobbies/ Interests:	Charity work for non-profit organizations and spending time with her two daughters.

Beyond the call

NEA helps send local track team to Junior Olympics

by Estelle Cruz and Derick Wickliffe

In June, the Nevada Employees Association (NEA) took on a community service project to help sponsor the P.S. Vegas Flyers Youth Track Team for the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics. NEA's goal was to raise $500 to assist with the costs of the trip. That goal was met through the generous donations of National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office employees.

The USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics was held July 23 through July 28, 2002, in Omaha, Nebraska. Almost 7,000 student athletes from across the country compete in the event each year in hopes of becoming America's next generation of track and field stars.

The P.S. Vegas Flyers sent 16 student athletes to compete in this year's Junior Olympics and the team faired extremely well. The team brought home a gold medal in the boy's javelin (13-14 years), a silver medal in the girl's shot put (10 years and younger), and a bronze medal in the girl's 1500 meter race walk (10 years and younger). Ten of the P.S. Vegas Flyers earned the status of All-American by placing in the top ten in their event finals. **Jarrod Walters** holds the new national record in the javelin (13-14 years) with a throw of 175 feet.

The P.S. Vegas Flyers is a nonprofit community-based youth organization that reaches out to children of various ages. The organization aims to build the children's self esteem by providing positive activities for them to participate in after school.

Lena Session, program director for the P.S. Vegas Flyers, thanks NEA for their support and for sharing in the team's vision of "Making a Difference in the Lives of Today's Youth."

NEA supports several in-house programs and community service projects throughout the year. Donations of money, giveaways, and volunteer time have been given to organizations such as Quannah McCall Elementary School, Jones Garden Head Start Day Care Center, Las Vegas Women's Shelter, St. Vincent's, United Blood Services, and the P.S. Vegas Flyers. NEA is committed to make a difference when help is needed.

NEA thanks the NNSA/NV employees who donated money to the P.S. Vegas Flyers.

Visit NEA's web site at http://nvhome/nea to see pictures and detailed results of the P.S. Vegas Flyers performance at the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics as well as to find information on upcoming events.

photo courtesy of Laurene Palma

Student athletes participate in the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics in Omaha, Nebraska.

Awards of Excellence recipients

by Kurt Arnold

In a ceremony on September 10, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) and associated contractor employee were presented with 2001 Awards of Excellence. Brigadier General **Ronald Haeckel**, NNSA's principal deputy administrator for defense programs, joined **Kathy Carlson**, NNSA/NV's manager, in presenting employees with their awards.

This prestigious award is presented to employees who make significant contributions to the Nevada Operations Office's nuclear weapon program. The awards recognize employees who made individual contributions or were members of a particular team.

Employees receiving 2001 individual awards were:

NNSA/NV
Robert Bangerter - Borehole Management

Bechtel Nevada
Sam Williams - G Tunnel Construction for Disposition of an Anomalous Weapon

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Fletcher Goldin - X-Ray Backlighter Diagnostic of Target Disassembly

Employees receiving 2001 team awards were:

Bechtel Nevada

Proton Radiography Team
Susan Gardner, Noor Khalsa, Rodger Liljestrand, Dan Marks, Dane Morgan, Richard Thompson, Tom Tunnell, and **Adam Whiteson**

Advanced Radiography Team
Steven Gardner, Dale Holmberg, Ed McCrea, and **Margaret "Kay" Reinhardt**

Joint Actinides Shock Physics Experimental Research Facility (JASPER) Startup
Jeffrey Cates, Anthony Christian, Richard Clough, Eric Flynn, Leon Haskin, Jr., Carl Konrad, and **Donald Western**

Multi-Point VISAR
Gene Capelle, Marlon Crain, Doug Devore, Brent Frogget, Cenobio Gallegos, Scott Myers, and **Vincent Romero**

Stallion Subcritical Testbed Development Team
Robert Caccavale, Charles Eaton, Mark Fiscus, Thomas Graves, John Heck, Sam Kilpatrick, James Kei, David Lipkowitz, Rex Livingston, Kenneth McCoy, Charles Mey, Priscilla Royer, James Wilsher, Clarence Woo, and **Robert Zobenica**

Subcritical Experiment Imaging Team
Michael Dolman, Anselmo Garza, Arlin Houser, Kristoffer Kelley, Kenneth Konops, and **Randy Rohde**

Homeland Security Response Teams
Brian Allen, Vance Allred, Robert Augdahl, Chris Bell, Kenneth Bertrand, Harry Black, Timothy Blackwell, Sonia Bonilla, David Bowman, Kendall Braithwaite, Paul Broadway, Andre Butler, Gary Chilton, Harvey Clark, Bert Cochran, David Colton, Kenneth Courville, Tommy Dahilig, Benjamin Davidson, Rebecca Detwiler, Harold English, Donald Farmer, Scott Fife, Robert Fisher, LaMoyne Galloway, Gerald Garino, Steve Geherty, Paul Greenbaum, Linda Hansen, Joseph Hassen, Larry Hatcher, Shannon Hatcher, Cheri Hautala-Bateman, John Heller, James Helvie, Thomas Hickerson, Rhonda Hopkins, Christopher Joines, Warnick Kernan, Jack Korous, Joseph Krzemien, Jerry Lester, William Leyrer, Charles Logan, Michael Lukens, Craig Lyons, Rashelle Mahan, Craig Marianno, Jared Mathis, Richard Maurer, Mark McMahon, Michael McWhirter, Keith Miller, Kenneth Mintz, Keith Mize, Shawn Muehlbauer, William Nickels, Ernie Noriega, Robert Noto, John O'Donoghue, Lauree Ogiela, Karen Patton, Juan Pena, Steven Powell, Stephanie Prothro, David Prout, Timothy Rearich, Thomas Reh, Larry Reynolds, Donald Ricketts, Steven Reidhauser, Carson Riland, Cynthia Rivera, Scott Roadhouse, Edward Roberts, Susan Roberts, Keith Roesner, Timothy Rourke, Gabriel Sampoll-Ramorez, Gary Schmidt, Eric Schmidthuber, Jon Schumacher, Khy Senh, Greg Shore, Latrelle Smith, Terry Smith, Larry Snowden, Elaine Solzano, Richard Sorom, Terry Staats, Thomas Sullivan, Lonnie Swindell, Richard Tighe, John Tipton, Ellen Traver, Willie Virgil, Richard Vojtech, Eric Wagner, James Walker, Piotr Wasiolek, Cres Watson, Patrick Whitely, Randall Whitt, Alan Will, Salee Wilson, Vincent Wolfe, Ronald Wolff, and **Cassie Zellers**

Homeland Security Support - RSL Home Team
Angela Anderson, Vickie Baker, Kathleen Banninger, Maria Berlien, Teresa Berstler, Cliff Bluitt, Terry Brooker, Diane Campbell, Ardena Carr, Audrey Christian, Nelson Cochrane, Theodore Cook, Cheryl Cornali, Patricia Denison, Loretta DeVault, Linnie Forsstrom, Sheldon Freid, Kathy Grizzle, Paul Guss, Robert Hampton, Melinda Hinners, Ronna Hoesch, Michael Howard, Barbara Kemnitz, William Kreitlow, Keith Kulm, Robert Lambert, Dawn Leo, Carolyn Logan, Lori McClone, Elaine McGlothen, Michael McWhirter, Michael Mohar, Christine Muehlbauer, Angela Nawrocki, John Nelson, Lauree Ogiela, Billy Parson, Stephanie Prothro, and **Cynthia Rivera**

World Trade Center Response
Chris Bell, Kevin Borders, Stanley Brewster, John Brown, David Butler, Gary Butler, James Butler, Russ Eberwein, Gerald Garino, Steve Geherty, Charles Golanics, David Hawley, Michael Howard, Carl Jackson, Lee Komich, Craig Marianno,

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Timothy McCreary, Tom McKissack, Keith Mize, Heather Noto, Robert Noto, Kevin Phoenix, Steven Powell, Marc Rivera, Timothy Rourke, Jon Schumacher, Greg Shore, Ethan Smith, Lonnie Swindell, and **Dallin Wrigley**

Wackenhut Services, Inc.

Protective Force Team
John Aguayo, Julian Almeyda, Guy Andenoro, John Anderson, Vernon Anderson, Lorenao Apodaca, Danny Austin, Patricia Baiocchetti, Antoine Barnes, Michael Barnhart, William Barr, Xavier Becerril, Lowell Blackman, Thomas Bottazzo, David Bradley, S. Brown, Thomas Brown, Lloyd Bruemmer, Louis Butler, Mark Cannon, Colin Care, Harold Carpenter, Mondo Cavallero, Richard Church, Randy Clayton, Michael Cleghorn, Jody Coles, Daniel Cowan, Jeffery Craig, Vincent Cummings, Richard Dague, Robert Dahlberg, Gerald Damron, Keith Davenport, Dale Dean, Michael Demesquita, Michael Desilets, Dennis Doyle, David Duff, Rufus Ellis, Karilyn Espinosa, Terrance Fagan, Robert Fletcher, Barry Flood, Walter Foster, Melvin Frandsen, Ronald Gaines, Raymond Gamble, Jr., Thomas Gascoigne, Bruce Gasta, Rodger Gatdula, Kelly Goebel, William Gomer, Richard Gomez, Xavier Gomez, Koni Green, Kirk Gries, Karey Guthrie, Michael Hailey, Bradley Hamlin, Willie Harris, Mark Herrin, Lee Higbie, Bennie Hodges, Mark Hojnacke, John Holliday, Allen Hoover, Carl Hoover, Kent Horlacher, Howard Hoye, Roger Hubin, Michael Issac, Mark Jackson, Jose Jaramillo, Louise Keathley, Mark Koeller, Aaron Kramer, George Lane, Gabrielle Lang, Lyle Lawton, James Layton, William Leal, Ward Lemons, George Lazoya, William Lucero, Carl Marrero, Sandra Marshall, Ira Matlock, Rodney Mazion, Lafayette McMorris, Phillip Mertz, Ray Mix, Richard Mollus, Jeffrey Monty, Marvin Morris, Milton Morton, David Moulton, Maurice Mulcahy, Brian Musick, Craig Nangle, Graig Newell, Carl Nichter, Daniel Palermo, Steven Pappa, Hershel Parks, Donald Peterson, John Poulos, Michael Privitera, Bruce Radel, Anniah Randolph, Robert Ready, Gus Redding, James Riddle, Barton Roberts, Bobbie Rock, Rafael Romo, Larry Rose, John A. Ross, John B. Ross, Davis Russell, Sarlos Saenz, Charles Sattler, August Shellhase, Lee Schmardebeck, Jerry Scholtka, Terry Scobee, Gary Seaberg, Barry Sephas, John Simon, Kimberley Sisterman, Angelo Smith, Darlene Smith, Roger Smith, L. Sommers, Patricia Stewart, William Stinson, Gregory Stukes, Donaciano Suazo, Lloyd Sydnor, M. Thimsen, John Thomas, John Tome, Steven Verwer, Ralph Vickrey, Michael Voce, Jay Warner, Marvin Watkins, Milton Wiggins, Jr., Michael Williams, and **Richard Workman**

OPSEC/Security Awareness Section
Cheryl Decker, Cindy Farinholt, Wayne Morris, and **Tom Vaselopulous**

Plans and Operations Section
Dave Bradley, Richard Church, Richard Davis, Lucille Fila, Bruce Gasta, Carl Hoover, Kent Horlacher, William Jarvey, Donald Kelley, Dennis Maher, Leo Price, and **Michael Voce**

Human Resources Section
Elizabeth Becerril, Lee Bradley, Patricia Church, Cindy Foster, Ann Gustavson, Marlene Hurt, Alissa Kramer, Lilyann Moore, Mary Murphy, Jodi Navarrette, Katherine Reynolds, and **Robert G. Sisterman**

Training Division
Guy Andenoro, Jr., Michael Barnhart, Sandra Canada, Richard Church, Gerald Damron, Dennis Doyle, Kent Horlacher, Allen Hoover, Lafayette McMorris, Brian Musick, and **Steven Warner**

Security Access Control Section
Kimberly Clark, Barbara Doss, Sandra Dyer, Richard Gomez, Ivory Hughes, Sharon Humes, Theresa Jefferson, Sandra Marshall, Carrie McClain, Connie Ripa, Tina Sealy, Rae Yuhas, and **Dianna Williams**

Lessons Learned

A questioning attitude may detect potential problems

by Dawn Starrett

Previous project successes are not a guarantee of future performance. Maintaining a questioning attitude is essential for each project undertaken to ensure requirements and standards are identified, safety is maintained, and stakeholder expectations are met.

Management must adopt a questioning approach to adequately define scope, identify appropriate standards and requirements, recognize changes in standards that affect projects, and effectively rely on available experienced personnel. Managers should:

- Recognize when they need help from external advisors when there is a change that involves unknown parameters and expert advice is not available internally.
- Select standards to use and flow them down through the work planning process.
- Ensure rigor and formality of programmatic elements by ensuring formality with the customer in terms of work scope and direction.
- Use the management assessment process to determine compliance and reinforce accountability for correcting issues and maintaining capability.

Workers need to ask the right questions. Recently, a worker discovered under inflated tires on a man-lift. The worker's personal experience with a travel trailer led him to check the tire pressure to determined if it was the correct pressure and to read the tire sidewall to determine if the tires were rated for the weight of the man-lift. The worker's persistence and questioning attitude led to the discovery that the tires were not the correct ones for the man-lift and a potentially dangerous situation was averted.

If you have an example of when a questioning attitude was used to avoid an accident or improve a process, submit your lessons learned to your organization's lessons learned point of contact or **Dawn Starrett, the site lessons learned coordinator (702-295-4297)**.

Face-to-Face

Name: Tammam Cheetany

Employer: IT Corporation

Title: Network Manager/Administrator

Hometown: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Hobbies/ Interests: Exercising, spending time with wife and two sons, and helping coach his sons' sports teams

Face-to-Face

Name: Siriphone "Pon" Shields

Employer: Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada

Title: Security Systems Engineer

Hometown: Luang Prabang, Laos

Hobbies/ Interests: Tennis, table tennis, volleyball, racketball, hiking, camping, skiing, photography, crafts, and cooking

Hazardous substance inventory

by Madelyn Hayes

Shortly, the annual data call for the Hazardous Substance Inventory (HSI) will go out to all National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) contractor and subcontractor organizations.

Bechtel Nevada's environmental compliance department will collect the data and provide a report to NNSA/NV, who reports storage and use of hazardous substances to local, state, and federal agencies. The deadline for completing this year's HSI is January 15, 2003.

In order to comply with reporting requirements, listed below are the steps to assist in the input and printings of reports:

- If you are the substance owner, substance reporter, or the person who will enter the HSI data, request a user name and password from **Madelyn Hayes (702-295-7376)** or via e-mail (hayesma@nv.doe.gov), by Friday, November 1, 2002.

- Complete an Account Authorization Request (BN-0496), for each new substance owner, substance reporter, and person entering data; have the appropriate supervisor sign it, and forward the form to **Madelyn Hayes, NTS-327**.

- Access the HSI database through the BN Home Page, under Daily Needs, http://webappa.nv.doe.gov/apps/hsi/default2.htm. It is not necessary to log in to access reports. Click on "Reports." Select your site and the Year **2001**. Click on Select Report, select "Substances by Building," select "Building." You can now sort this report by room, owner, or substance. You may also use the "Substances by Owner Report," if appropriate. This report allows you to sort by area, site, building, or substance. Print the report.

- The next step is to physically inventory your facility and update the quantities on the printed report. (For this portion you will need a user name and password to update the database.)

- Log onto the HSI, select "Inventory/Owner/Submit." Select "Building" then "Edit" for each product. Click "Submit" after each record is updated. For new products, select "Add a New Inventory Record." Eenter the following data: container size, number of containers on hand, maximum quantity on site at any one time during the calendar year, maximum annual use rate, and average number of days on site. Click on "Submit."

For more detailed instructions and illustrations on entering data into the database, refer to the User Manual, which is located at http://webappa.nv.doe.gov/Apps/HSI/pdf/UserManual.pdf or call **Madelyn Hayes (702-295-7376)** for assistance. For products not defined in the HSI, send a current Material Safety Data Sheet to **Madelyn at NTS-327** and indicate whether you need it returned to you.

Each year, the HSI database is improved to make entering inventory data more user friendly. If you have suggestions for further improvements, contact Hayes.

photo by Bechtel Nevada Fire and Rescue Department

A wildfire burns and smolders an area of the Nevada Test Site. An investigation on the cause of the fire was completed and no cause was determined.

Wildfire chars portion of NTS

In late August, a wildland range fire burned up to 1,000 acres at the Nevada Test Site. Bechtel Nevada's fire and rescue teams responded along with support personnel from the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office, the U.S. Air Force, the Nevada Division of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Services, and the Bureau of Land Management worked together to fully contain the fire.

Household hazardous waste reduction

by Al Karns

The following information is from the United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPA-905-F-97-011, dated August 1997.

What is household hazardous waste?
If you walk around your kitchen, bathroom, garage, or workshop, you willl probably find hazardous materials or products that you and your family uses every day. Hazardous materials that are no longer useable become household hazardous waste (HHW). HHW includes hazardous materials such as household cleaners, paints, paint thinners, motor oils, gasoline, and pesticides. HHW may pose a threat to human health or the environment if it is not disposed of properly. HHW poses a threat because it exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- **Toxic:**
  - Poisonous materials like pesticides and expired medicines can harm various organs when swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Some toxic materials can also cause cancer.
- **Corrosive:**
  - Materials like battery acid and bleach can dissolve other materials, including metals. Corrosive materials can cause severe burns to skin, eyes, and other tissues.
- **Ignitable:**
  - Flammable materials like gasoline and paint thinner catch fire very easily, sometimes with just a little extra heat or a small spark. Ignited materials can cause severe burns.
- **Reactive:**
  - Unstable materials can explode or give off poisonous gases when mixed with water or other materials (for example, mixing bleach and ammonia).

Typically, about one percent of all waste generated in the average American household is hazardous. The average household generates about 30 pounds (about the weight of a medium- sized dog) of HHW per year, for an annual national total of about 1.6 million tons. The types and percentages of HHW in our daily garbage are shown below:

- Household maintenance items (paint, thinners, glues) 36.6%
- Household batteries 18.6%
- Personal care products (nail polish and remover, hair spray) 12.1%
- Cleaners 11.5%
- Automotive-maintenance products (grease, oil) 10.5%
- Pesticides, pet supplies, and fertilizers 4.1%
- Hobbies/Other (pool chemicals, lighter fluid) 3.4%
- Pharmaceuticals 3.2%

Why is household hazardous waste reduction important?
Hazardous materials are found in almost every home. We use products listed above in our cars, yards, and even on ourselves. HHW and other hazardous materials that are not handled properly at home can be dangerous, especially to young children and pets. In addition, when HHW is not disposed of properly, it can be dangerous for people and the environment.

If HHW is combined with your household trash, trash haulers or sanitation workers can be injured from explosions, fumes, or fires. If HHW is dumped on the ground or poured into sewers, storm water can wash it into streams, lakes, and rivers. Many cities, including Chicago and Las Vegas, get their drinking water from these sources. In other cases, HHW may seep down through the ground until it reaches aquifers, which are underground sources of water, for communities that get their drinking water from wells. When the aquifers get polluted, drinking water may no longer be drinkable, or it may be more difficult to treat water to safe drinking levels. Plants and animals that live in or near the streams, lakes, and rivers can also be harmed from HHW in the water.

How can pollution prevention (P2) help you?
Neighborhood collection days allow HHW to be disposed of properly. The key is to prevent HHW generation. The best way to do this is to use non-hazardous products, but there are other ways to reduce HHW.

The following four P2 concepts can help you evaluate your household practices and identify ways to reduce the impact of HHW in your home:

Changing What You Use

- Read labels on the products you use and ask yourself, "Do I really need to use this product?" Safer alternatives may exist. For example, you could use water-based (latex) paint instead of oil-based paint, compost instead of chemical fertilizers, cedar chips instead of mothballs, or boric acid instead of commercial ant and roach killers.

Changing What You Do

- Think about what you do in your home that gen erates HHW and ask yourself, "Is there a safer way I can be doing this?" For example, you could use sandpaper or a heat gun instead of chemical paint strippers or a plunger instead of a chemical drain cleaner.
- If you must use hazardous products, read and fol low the specific instructions on labels. Most products

continued on page 15

MILESTONES

NNSA

30 years **Jean Chatterton, Deborah Monette**

15 years **Lizabeth Engebretson, Yim Liu-Bacon, Teresa Lachman**

Bechtel Nevada

35 years *Los Alamos Operations* - **Kenneth Jones**; *Livermore Operations* - **Jerome Richter**

30 years *Las Vegas* - **Linda Jensen, Lawrence Woo**; *Nevada Test Site* - **John Heck**

25 years *Las Vegas* - **Debbie Mavros**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Gary Skougard**

20 years *Las Vegas* - **Edwin Aquino**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Richard Amberg, Cruz Pineda, Timothy Villaverde**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Wilbert Gonzales**

15 years *Nevada Test Site* - **Pamela Haynes**; *Livermore Operations* - **Frank Hill**

10 years *Nevada Test Site* - **William Bauer**

5 years *Nevada Test Site* - **Timoteio Aguilar, Larry Bates, William Botos, Larry Hollis, Dominic Isi, Jerry Jenner, Howard Johnson, Gordon Mair, Larry McDaniel, Daniel Salazar, Dale Stoddard, Robert Wymer**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Harold Anderson, John Butler**

New Hires

Las Vegas - **Allison Brinkmeyer, Thomas Buchel, Adam Clark, Michael Collier, Joseph Cummings, Douglas Datka, Cheryl Decker, Phillip Dever, Sr., Terri Dionizio, Marlana Eddings, Bryan Elliott, Michael Frehner, William Hale, Philip Harpster, Norman Hobson, Dennis Hunt, Kevin McGillivaray, Ann Morgan, Donald Prue, Cindy Roragen, Frank Saponaro, Cory Sparks, Tiffany Stacey, Kari Stringfellow, Richard Ward, Scott Williamson,**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Gregory Barstow, David Carlson, Robert Cullison, William Delk, Larry Eystad, Charles Garrett, Arron Lund, Dolores Nizich, Sandra Owens, Dale Pendry, Teresa Shaw, Pamela Soper, Joann Thomas,** ; *RSL-Andrews Operations* - **Yuping You**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Michael Berninger, Adam Iverson, Ming Wu**; *Livermore Operations* - **Shaun Hampton, Richard Klitzing**

Enivornmental Protection Agency/R&IE

15 years **Gregg Dempsey**

IT Corporation

10 years **Elizabeth Jones**

5 years **Angela Ramsey**

Los Alamos National Laboratory

5 years **Richard Ziegenbein**

SCI Consulting Incorporated.

5 years **Peter Wilson**

NOAA ARL/SORD

5 years **Phillip Abbott**

Wackenhut Services Inc.

20 years *Nevada Test Site* - **John Simon**

5 years *Nevada Test Site* - **Robert Dahlberg, Lee Higbie, Roger Hubin, Ward Lemons, Steven Verwer**

Compiled by Tamiko Brown

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 8
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821).**

October 9
Community Advisory Board meeting. Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington, Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NV (702-295-2836).**

October 14
NNSA/NV offices closed in observance of Columbus Day.

October 22
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821).**

October 24
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

November 11
NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

November 12
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821).**

November 19
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

November 28
NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.

November 29
Bechtel Nevada offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.

December 12
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

December 25
NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Christmas holiday.

January 8, 2003
Community Advisory Board meeting. Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington, Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NV (702-295-2836).**

January 15
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

Declassified Film Showings
For information on declassified film showings at NTS CP-1, contact **Denise Langendorf (702- 295-4015)**. For information on declassified film showings at NTS Yucca Mountain, contact **Rod Rodriguez (702-295-5825)**.

Upcoming conferences and trade shows

October 9-12
2002 Society of Women Engineers National Conference. The Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center, Detroit, Michigan. For additional information, visit www.swe.org/SWE/Convention/detroit/.

October 12-16
IAEM 2002 Annual Conference and Exhibit. Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio. For additional information, visit www.iaem.com.

November 3-7
Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. For additional information, visit www.asce.org/conferences/annual02/conference_facts.html.

November is:

National American Indian Heritage Month

and

Aviation History Month

Household hazardous waste reduction

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provide instructions for use and proper disposal.
- Buy hazardous products only in the quantity you need and use the product up entirely; consider how you will dispose of unused portions of a hazardous product before you purchase it.
- Make sure you do not use too much of a product.

More is not necessarily better. In fact, using more material than necessary costs you money and may be more hazardous to you or the environment.
- If they are still in useable condition, reuse hazardous products and recycle what can no longer be used. You can also share hazardous products you cannot use with a responsible friend or neighbor that needs the products.

Improving Your Housekeeping
- Store hazardous products according to the instructions on labels.
- Unless the containers are leaking, always keep hazardous products in their original containers. The containers are designed specifically for the proucts.
- Immediately clean up any spills or leaks according to the instructions on labels.
- Make sure the containers always have readable labels. If a label comes off or can no longer be read, make a new label with a permanent marker.

Educating Yourself and Others
- Share your knowledge and ideas regarding HHW reduction with your family and friends.
- Read and learn more about other alternatives to using hazardous products.

Retirements

William Adams, Bechtel Nevada
James Barrett III, NNSA/NV
Roy Boyd, Bechtel Nevada
Tony Jensen, NNSA/NV
Ramon Martinez, Bechtel Nevada
Thomasine McDaniel, NNSA/NV

In Memory

William Perritte, Bechtel Nevada

SITELINES

Published monthly for all members of the NNSA/NV family.
Kathleen A. Carlson, Manager, NNSA, Nevada Operations Office.
Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs and Information.
Submit articles or ideas to the editor at 702-295-5792 or M/S NLV 106.

Editor
Kurt Arnold
Bechtel Nevada

Layout and design:
Nancy Tufano
Bechtel Nevada

Contributors:
Kurt Arnold
Tamiko Brown
Estelle Cruz
Roxanne Dey
Heather Emmons
La Tomya Glass
Sheril Hamlin
Madelyn Hayes
Al Karns
Kirsten Kellogg
Jennifer Morton
Angela Ramsey
Dawn Starrett
Nancy Tufano
Derick Wickliffe
Alice Wiggins